

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A driver circuit comprising:

a drive section for generating a differential signal according to an input signal and outputting the differential signal, or for placing the output of the drive section in a high impedance state; and

a control section for controlling the drive section ~~constructed~~ to output ~~[[a]]~~ the differential signal according to an input data signal during a ~~predetermined~~ first period indicated by an input identification signal~~[[,]]~~ and ~~be allowed to select between putting for controlling the drive section to place the output of the driver circuit drive section in a high impedance state, and outputting or to output a predetermined differential signal and not putting place the output of the drive section in a high impedance state during a second period other than the predetermined period indicated by the identification signal.~~

2. (Original) A driver circuit comprising:

a drive section for generating a differential signal according to an input signal and outputting the signal to an electric cable or an optical transceiver; and

a control section receiving a selection signal based on which the drive section selects to drive the electric cable or the optical transceiver, an identification signal for controlling the output of the drive section, and a data signal, for generating a signal based on the received signals and outputting the generated signal to the drive section,

wherein, during a predetermined period indicated by the identification signal, the control section controls the drive section to output the differential signal according to the data signal, and during a period other than the predetermined period, the control section controls the drive section

to put the output of the drive section in a high impedance state when the selection signal indicates selection of the electric cable, or output a predetermined differential signal, not putting the output in a high impedance state, when the selection signal indicates selection of the optical transceiver.

3. (Original) The driver circuit of Claim 2, wherein a terminator is connected to the output of the drive section, and

the magnitude of a voltage at the terminator is equal to or less than a predetermined value when the output of the drive section is in the high impedance state.

4. (Original) The driver circuit of Claim 2, wherein the selection signal is fixed to a predetermined logic level.

5. (Original) The driver circuit of Claim 2, wherein the control section can designate the predetermined differential signal when the selection signal indicates selection of the optical transceiver.

6. (Original) The driver circuit of Claim 2, further comprising an externally readable/writable register, wherein a signal generated based on information stored in the register is used as the selection signal.

7. (Original) The driver circuit of Claim 2, wherein the differential signal output from the drive section is provided with a predetermined common mode voltage, and

the driver circuit further comprises a judging section for comparing the common mode voltage with a predetermined reference voltage, and outputs the results to the control section as the selection signal.

8. (Original) A data communication device comprising:
the driver circuit of Claim 2;

a receiver circuit receiving a differential signal via an electric cable or an optical transceiver; and

a judging section for comparing a common mode voltage of the differential signal input into the receiver circuit with a predetermined reference voltage, and outputs the results to the control section as the selection signal.

9. (New) The driver circuit of Claim 1, wherein, during the second period, the control section controls the drive section to place the output of the drive section in a high impedance state when an input selection signal indicates that the drive section is to drive an electric cable, and to output the predetermined differential signal and not place the output of the drive section in a high impedance state when the selection signal indicates that the drive section is to drive an optical transceiver.